

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Monthly Meeting of Arlington Tree Committee

Wednesday, April 8, 7:30 PM, Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall

Present: Sally Naish, Eliza Burden (Co-chair), Mary Ellen Aronow (Chair), Liz Pilcher (minutes), Susan Stamps, Mike Rademacher. Visitors: Carl Whitaker, Patty Palanza-Paynter, Larry Englisher, Eric Ammondson, John Ellis, Becky Edmondson

1. **Welcome**—introduction of members and visitors and discussion of mission, reason for being, and how we dovetail with the DPW.
2. **DPW Tree Department Update (MR)**
 - **Spring Tree Ordering and Planting**—The town ordered 100 trees to be planted this spring. The trees will fulfill requests to date. The town will do the planting in-house and will distribute watering instructions. The trees will be delivered in April. Mike will give us a list of locations.

ES will do a press release to coincide with the spring planting with watering instructions and requesting residents to remove stakes and straps on trees planted more than two years before.
 - **NSTAR (Eversource) pruning**—Pruning was halted in January due to weather. They will resume this month in East Arlington and then move to the Brackett School neighborhood. Each circuit will get trimmed on a four-year schedule. NSTAR (Eversource) is offering to replace trees that have to be removed.
 - **Tree Warden**—This is a 24 hrs/week, benefitted position. Mike is going to interview a candidate next week. He feels that this is a special position that he wants to fill with the right candidate.
3. **Arbor Day (April 24th) (town activities, DPW, ATC)**—The town has purchasing seedlings for every 5th grader. BE suggested doing a tree planting to commemorate Arbor Day, if not this year, then in the future. MEA offered to coordinate with the scouts to plant a few trees out of the 100 trees that MR ordered. Northeast Utilities Rob Allen asked to be involved with Arbor Day and Town Day. We will keep that in mind for the future.
4. **DCR Grant Submission (committee update)**—EB submitted a statement of intent to apply. The grant will be utilized for trees in the Thompson School vicinity. It was suggested that we ask for a donation to the Trees Please fund. The subcommittee will review this. EP will contact DCR about review of our statement and submission of a grant application May 1. The grant subcommittee, EB, EP and ES, will meet this month to develop the grant application.
5. **Development of a Bylaw to Restrict Removal of Privately-owned Trees**—SS attended a master plan committee meeting and learned that there is no restriction on removing privately-owned trees in Arlington.

Lexington restricts the removal of trees on private property in a setback area, with built-in penalties for the removal of the tree. The building inspector is required to approve tree removal as part of a plan to develop new houses or where houses are being expanded by 50% or more. It was suggested that SS work with a subcommittee to develop bylaw language based on Lexington's bylaw. Also, it was suggested that the subcommittee check if other towns in the area have bylaws similar to Lexington's. The bylaw subcommittee will consist of SS, CW, and LE.

SN mentioned that the 1st iteration of the tree committee put a zoning by-law before town meeting, which restricted the removal of trees on private property, and it was turned down.

- 6. Heritage Tree Designation**—EP presented her efforts regarding heritage trees and interest in documenting them through images from the historic society and library archives. This effort may also help develop protections for the town's heritage trees. This effort dovetails with BE's efforts to define the term 'heritage tree' and how a tree can receive the designation. The heritage tree subcommittee is BE, EP, PP, MEA. Clarissa Rowe assisted a homeowner to get an easement to protect a tree. (EP will find out more about this for MEA.)

7. Publicity

- **Advocate article(s) update committee on schedule**—EP will write the May *Advocate* article on how to select a tree for your garden.
 - *(2015 Publication Calendar handout)*-- to be discussed next meeting
- **Facebook – do we want to get one started**—to be discussed next meeting
- **Tshirts– could we have Tshirts for sale at Town Day? Order more for new members**—to be discussed next meeting

- 8. Approval of Minutes (Jan, Feb and Mar)**—to be discussed next meeting

- 9. Membership, Committee Roles, Responsibilities and Tenure**—to be discussed next meeting

- **Co-Chairs**
- **Website**—BE offered to maintain and update the website
- **Publicity**—Neighborhood Newsletter, BE offered to write a piece for the Neighborhood Newsletter, due in June.
- **Meeting Minutes**

- 10. Other Business**—to be discussed next meeting

- **Resident concern (email from 6 Lantern Lane) regarding tree removal, lot fragmentation – ATC follow up**

Next meeting: Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month. May 13th